



Greenfield April 24th 1840

Dear Br.

(Yours of 22d) is just received. To a few points I wish immediately to reply.

You express yourself half inclined to cut from your present engagements and take hold as agent of our Society. This half inclination keeps both you & us in suspense & hot water. Why not do it at once & have it ended? You ask if I will raise the money. Be sure I will. But who will make the appropriation? A vote of the Board is requisite for that. I can raise money fast enough, but they must apply it. I will vote for it, on condition you will become our Gen. Agt before you go. Not without.

With regard to Br. L. My own fears correspond with your own. But what to do is not so easily told. He has the best field - decidedly so - in the Commonwealth. In two weeks I ~~also~~ obtained about \$350,00 in subscriptions in four places: and then our probably no better than the county, will average. More than two thousand dollars might be obtained there by an efficient agent. Though I can not tell what we shall do, I can what we shall not. Money which I collect, must not go to pay his salary. The first dollar thus appropriated, will much abate my trial in collecting I assure you.

Almost every one of our friends, good bad and indifferent is outrageous at a third nomination. So far as my knowledge stands, we will not carry one in ten. The scheme appears to me every day more & more like a mad one. I do not believe fifty hundred votes will be obtained in Mass. And I intend to write Quincy before I sleep, state to him my convictions and urge him to decline the nomination.

Every thing in this county is in confusion. I can do nothing to the least advantage, till I shall have gone all over it. Unless I hear from Boyes by Monday night, you will see me in Boston Tuesday.

Yours Truly,

A. S. Clair.